## Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 AID-05 IGA-02 INR-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00 SS-15 H-01 CIAE-00 OC-06 L-03 PA-01 PRS-01 /053 W

-----300639Z 064207 /13

R 292017Z APR 77 FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7199 SECDEF WASHDC INFO USCINCSO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

CONFIDENTIAL SAN JOSE 1855

DEPARTMENT FOR ARA AND PM

OSD FOR ISA

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: MASS

SUBJECT: ORGANIZATIONS TO PERFORM SECURITY ASSISTANCE FUNCTIONS

**REF: STATE 087395** 

- 1. PARA 3 REFTEL STATES INTENTION OF DEPT AND DOD PROPOSE DESIGNATE EXITING ODC'S IN USSOUTHCOM AREA AS MILGPS. THIS WOULD NOT BE ADVISABLE FOR COSTA RICA.
- 2. MILITARY ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT BETWEEN US AND COSTA RICA, WHICH WAS BASIS FOR PRESENCE OF MILGP IN THIS COUNTRY, EXPIRED IN DECEMBER, 1975. PRIOR TO ITS EXPIRATION, GOCR HAD REQUESTED THAT IT BE MODIFIED AND THEN EXTENDED BY EXCHANGE OF NOTES. USG NEVER REPLIED DIRECTLY TO GOCR REQUEST.

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3. IN NOTE TO GOCR IN NOV, 1976, EMBASSY ADVISED GOCR THAT MURLGP HAD BEEN TERMINATED AND THAT ITS CURRENT MEMBERS HAD BEEN ASSIGNED DIRECTLY TO EFMBASSY STAFF. BY REFERRINODIN THAT NOTE TO DISCUSSIONS HELD IN 1975 RE POSSIBLE EXTENSION OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT, WE ALSO GAVE NOTICE THAT AGREEMENT COULD NOT BE EXTENDED AS REQUESTED.

- 4. IT IS EMBASSY'S UNDERSTANDING THAT MILGP NOW COULD ONLY BE RE-CREATED WITH LEGAL BASIS IF A NEW MILITARY ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT WERE TO BE SIGNED. A NEW AGREEMENT WOULD HAVE TO BE SUBMITTED TO NATIONAL ASSEMBLY FOR APPROVAL. SINCE GOCR OBJECTIVE IN PROPOSING EXTENSION OF MODIFIED AGREEMENT AS OPPOSED TO SIGNING A NEW AGREEMENT WAS TO AVOID CONTROVERSIAL DEBATE WITHIN ANTIMILITARY ASSEMBLY, IT IS UNLIKELY THAT GOCR WILL NOW FIND IT ADVANTAGEOUS TO SIGN A NEW AGREEMENT.
- 5. WHILE FROM EMBASSY VIEWPOINT THERE WAS NO COMPELLING REASON TO TERMINATE MILGP WHEN WE DID, NOW THAT MILGP HAS BEEN TERMINATED, OR CONVERTED TO ODC, WE SEE NO COMPELLING REASON TO RE-INSTITUTE IE. PRESUMABLY THE LIMITED SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM CONDUCTED IN THIS COUNTRY COULD BE HANDLED BY ODC AS WELL AS BY A MILGP. AND BY MAINTAINING ODC AS PART OF EMBASSY STAFF, WE CAN AVOID SIGNING OF NEW MILITARY ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT AND THE POLITICAL CONTROVERSY THAT WOULD BE AROUSED BY ASSEMBLY AND PRESS DISCUSS N OF SUCH AN AGREUAENT.
- 6. EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT IT IS IN BOTH U.S. AND COSTA RICAN INTEREST TO MAINTAIN SYMBOLIC U.S. MILITARY PRESENCE IN COSTA RICA AND TO CONTINUE SMALL FMS PROGRAM. TO DO SO EFFECTIVELY, IT IS ESSENTIAL TO MAINTAIN VERY LOW U.S. MILITARY PRGFILE HERE. THAT CAN BEST BE DONE BY MAINTAINING ODC AS INTEGRAL PART OF EMBASSY STAFF.

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## Message Attributes

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